

# **FREE Forest Service Christmas tree Permits Offered to 4<sup>th</sup> Graders through Every Kid in a Park Initiative**

**CUSTER, SD** – This holiday season, 4<sup>th</sup> graders with a valid Every Kid in a Park pass can get one **FREE** Christmas tree cutting permit from the Black Hills National Forest.

The White House initiative, Every Kid in a Park, is a nationwide call to action to build the next generation of conservationists. All fourth graders are eligible to receive a fourth grade pass. Not only does this pass provide a free Christmas tree permit, but the pass also allows free access to fourth graders and their families to federal lands and waters across the country for a full year. The pass is valid through Aug. 31, 2016.

In order for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to receive a free Christmas tree permit, they must present a valid paper voucher printed from the Every Kid in a Park website at: <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>

- Visit the website and follow the instructions on the website to obtain the paper voucher.
- Print out the paper voucher.
- Bring the paper voucher with you to a permit sale location (listed below) on the Black Hills National Forest to claim the free permit.

**Please Note:** Mail-order form is not an option for this program. The 4th grader and family must present the voucher in person at an office location.

**Beginning November 20, 2015**, free 4<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas tree permits will be available from the following local Forest Service offices.

## **Forest Supervisor's Office**

1019 North 5th Street  
Custer, SD 57730  
Phone: 605-673-9200  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **Mystic Ranger District**

8221 South Highway 16  
Rapid City, SD  
Phone: 605-343-1567  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Open the following Saturdays: 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## **Northern Hills Ranger District**

2014 North Main Street  
Spearfish, SD  
Phone: 605-642-4622  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more hours in front of screens instead of outside. The Every Kid in a Park initiative encourages valuable opportunities to explore, learn, and play in the spectacular places that belong to us all and aims to inspire stewardship of these places for future generations.

Every Kid in a Park is an interagency effort among the National Park Service, Forest Service, Department of Education, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills> or call (605) 673-9200.